

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
STREET COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 10:00 a.m.
MAG Offices, Suite 300,
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Chris Hauser, El Mirage, Vice Chair | Robert Woodring for Lee Jimenez, Maricopa County |
| Eric Boyles for Susan Anderson, ADOT | * Mike Gillespie, Litchfield Park |
| Emile Schmid, Apache Junction | * James Shano, Paradise Valley |
| David Janover, Avondale | Jenny Grote, Phoenix |
| Jose Heredia, Buckeye | Angeline To for Scott Bender, Pinal County |
| Kevin Lair, Chandler | Ben Wilson, Peoria |
| @Tom Deitering for Aryan Lirange, FHWA | Janet Martin, Queen Creek |
| * Wayne Costa, Florence | Jennifer Jack, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community |
| Tim Oliver, Gila River Indian Community | Andrew Merkley for Phil Kercher, Scottsdale |
| Kristin Myers for Ken Morgan, Gilbert | Dana Owsiany, Surprise |
| Patrick Sage, Glendale | German Piedrahita, Tempe |
| # Hugh Bigalk, Goodyear | Jason Earp, Tolleson |
| * Bill Fay, City of Maricopa | # Grant Anderson, Youngtown |
| Maria Angelica Deeb, Mesa | |

* Members neither present nor represented by Proxy

Members attending by phone

@Ex-officio member, non voting member

OTHERS PRESENT

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Warren White, Chandler | Teri Kennedy, MAG |
| Jenny Bixby for Jacobs | David Massey, MAG |
| Jamie McCracken, Tolleson | Stephen Tate, MAG |

1. Call to Order

Chair Chris Hauser called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Introductions and Attendance

A roll call of members attending the meeting was conducted. The following member agencies were not represented at the meeting: Florence, City of Maricopa, Paradise Valley and Litchfield Park.

3. Approval of the October 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Maria Angelica Deeb moved approval of the minutes. Mr. Kevin Lair seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Call to the Audience

No members of the audience requested to speak before the Committee.

5. Transportation Programming Manager's Report

Mr. Stephen Tate briefed the Committee. He noted that the Congress had enacted a new surface transportation act called the Fixing America's Transportation Act or the FAST Act. The Act provides funding through federal fiscal year 2020 and increases funding levels by approximately 11 percent. Official numbers on sub allocations of funding are not available, but it is expected that the Act will slightly increase STP funding available to MAG.

He went on to add that the new Act made few policy changes, but does include a new formula driven program for freight projects, re-establishes the discretionary grant program for buses and provides some additional measures to streamline the project delivery process.

He then discussed the closeout of the MAG federal funds program, not including the Arterial Life-Cycle Program. He stressed that requests for closeout funding are due to MAG by Friday, January 15, 2016.

He noted that at the time of the meeting, approximately, \$4.4 million is available for re-distribution and that priorities for closeout funding are as follows:

- First priority: the advancement of federally funded projects from future years in the TIP,
- Second priority: increasing federal funds to programmed projects to address increased engineering estimates,
- Third priority: adding design phases for construction projects programmed with federal funds,
- Fourth priority: adding new projects to the TIP.

To participate in the closeout, projects must be able to authorize in the current federal fiscal year and have all necessary paperwork for the required clearances and design into ADOT by June 1st. The Transportation Review Committee will consider closeout requests on Thursday, January 28, 2017.

Mr. Tate then noted that in February, the Regional Council is anticipated to take action to approve the new federally funded projects selected by MAG technical committees, including the Street Committee. He also noted that MAG is developing a new FY 2017 - FY 2021 TIP to be approved in June and that project spreadsheets from member agencies are due on Wednesday, February 17th.

He concluded by noting that ADOT is seeking International Roughness Index (IRI) data to meet Highway Performance Monitoring System and Pavement Performance requirements. He

requested that member agencies that had collected IRI data over the 2015 calendar year contact him. Currently, only Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix collect IRI data on an annual basis.

6. Arterial Life Cycle Program Project Changes Technical Review: Baseline Road from 24th Street to Consolidated Canal

Mr. John Bullen provided a brief introduction. He noted that the Arterial Life-Cycle (ALCP) program is the financial mechanism established by the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to manage arterial projects identified in the Plan. MAG policies require Street Committee review for proposed ALCP project changes that affect either the scope of the project or substitute a new project for the original project.

The change request before the Committee is the first to use a new ALCP change tool developed pursuant to the MAG Congestion Management Process. This tool assesses project changes according to the following nine criteria:

- Average Annual Weekday Travel
- Volume to Capacity Ratio
- Peak PM Volume
- Peak AM Volume
- Crash Rates by Vehicle Miles of Travel Relative to City-Wide Average
- Serious Crashes divided by Fatalities for Structural Cases Only
- Segment of Regional Importance
- Complete Streets
- Economic Development Access

Ms. Maria Angelica Deeb then presented the Mesa request. The Mesa proposal was to substitute improvements to Val Vista Drive from Southern Avenue to University Drive with improvements to Baseline Road from 24th Street to the Consolidated Canal. Currently the Val Vista Drive section has four through lanes, traffic volumes ranging from 22,100 to 29,800 vpd and in 2012 functioned at LOS B and LOS C and is projected to function at LOS C in 2040. In the ALCP, the Val Vista section is to be widened to include six through lanes.

The Baseline Road section to be substituted has four through lanes, traffic volumes ranging from 26,800 to 27,000 vpd and functioned at LOS D in 2012 and is projected to function at LOS D approaching LOS E in 2040. It is proposed to widen the section to six lanes. This proposal would create a consistent six lane section along Baseline within Mesa leading into the Town of Gilbert and is a high priority for the City of Mesa and the Town of Gilbert. Both communities are signatories to an IGA expressing an intent to widen the section to six through lanes with the City of Mesa acting as the lead agency.

The combined score from the ALCP change tool for the Val Vista Drive section was 1.0 and for the Baseline Road substitute section was 1.30.

Mr. Grant Anderson moved to recommend to include the proposed project change in the draft FY 2017 ALCP. Ms. Kristin Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Call for Vice Chair Nominations

Mr. Tate briefed the Committee. He noted that Mr. Lee Jimenez had accepted a position at the City of Phoenix and had as a result vacated his position as Vice Chair of the Committee. Letters of interest for the position should be submitted to MAG by January 25, 2016. It is anticipated that the MAG Executive will take action to appoint a Vice Chair at their February meeting.

8. System Level Operating and Maintenance Costs and Revenue Sources for the draft FY 2017-FY 2021 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Mr. Tate briefed the Committee. He noted that MAG is developing the FY 2017 - FY 2021 MAG TIP and that federal regulations require that the TIP included system level estimates of costs and revenue sources that are reasonably available to maintain and operate federal-aid highways.

For the current TIP, MAG obtained unit cost estimates from a survey of member agencies and these were used to calculate system level estimates for pavement, traffic signal, signing and marking, street lighting and other operating and maintenance costs.

Mr. Tate then displayed a copy of the survey that had been used previously and asked if members had comments concerning the survey.

Ms. Deeb noted that the City of Mesa was in the process of developing project by project operating and maintenance costs and that it might be better to collect input from member agencies to determine the best approach.

It was determined that the Committee should discuss the issue at a future meeting. Ms. Myers suggested that MAG should provide members with materials explaining better what MAG needs. Mr. Tate indicated that he would send out materials for the Committee to review.

9. Review of the MAG Federal Fund Project Selection Process

Mr. Tate briefed the Committee. He began by noting that MAG would like to get feedback from the Committee on the process that MAG had recently used to review and select paving and street sweeper projects for federal funding. He then provided a summary of the process, noting that it included the development of applications, workshops for applicants, the posting of applications received online along with comments received, site visits and applicant presentations.

He then asked the members what they thought of the applications, whether the questions were reasonable, or too long or areas where the applications could be improved.

The Chair indicated that he thought that the applications were easy to follow and required a reasonable amount of detail.

Mr. Tate then asked if the presentation requirements were reasonable, whether the graphics were okay and whether they were too long or too short.

Ms. Myers indicated that she questioned the value of the presentations. Mr. Tate noted that the process does emphasize the data provided in the applications and that presentations are intended to provide an opportunity for Committee members and applicants to address issues in the data.

Mr. Tate then noted that in the last round of applications, MAG had imposed a default value of four vehicles per day for alleys based on a survey conducted by MAG staff and that this imposition had been necessary as it was apparent that applicants were using different default values. He then asked if the default value was reasonable.

The Chair noted that he felt that as long as the value used can be backed up that it is reasonable.

Ms. Jennifer Jack noted that a BIA default value of 50 vpd was used on one application and that actual traffic counts on other similar roads were much lower. She suggested that MAG may need to look more closely at the use of default values.

Mr. Tate then discussed the data and process used for the selection of Surface Transportation Program projects in Pinal County. He noted that in the last selection round that the Committee was presented with an apples and oranges problem of comparing one project that used mid-block counts for traffic volume and PCI for pavement quality and another project that used approach counts for traffic volume and a different measure for pavement quality.

Mr. Emile Schmid pointed to a handout on MAG member agency pavement management systems and noted that there does not appear to be a commonly accepted method for measuring pavement quality in the region and that adopting one particular method for the purposes of project selection could be difficult to implement across multiple agencies.

Mr. Tate concurred and suggested that perhaps it might be feasible for MAG to have the parties in Pinal County meet prior to the submission of STP applications and agree on common measures of traffic and pavement condition. If the number of applications proved to be small, MAG might be able to use a consultant to collect the data.

Mr. Tim Oliver noted that most pavement systems involve subjective elements and that it would be good to have more objective measures like those in large systems implemented by the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County.

Ms. Jenny Grote suggested that once applications had been received, that MAG could hold a workshop for applicants and members of the Committee to informally discuss the applications.

Ms. Deeb noted that it is very difficult for one agency to evaluate the data of another agency and suggested that it might be desirable for MAG to have a consultant check the data received and provide a report to the Committee.

Mr. Kevin Lair suggested that the life-span of street sweepers be reconsidered, that it should be less. Mr. Tate noted that he had often been told by member agencies that the replacement period should be less, but that MAG currently used a shorter replacement period than used nationally and that it might prove difficult to obtain FHWA approval to use a shorter replacement period.

Mr. Lair noted that the City of Chandler was moving to a five-to-six year replacement cycle because of the cost to maintain an old sweeper relative to purchasing a new sweeper is excessive. He went on to indicate that this could result in the foregoing of federal funding for sweeper purchases by the City. Ms. Deeb noted that Mesa is already using a six year replacement cycle.

Mr. Lair also noted that different brands have different life-spans that can reflect replacement cycles. Ms. Grote noted that the choice of brands is driven by procurement rules.

Ms. Grote suggested that MAG look at miles of operation in evaluating the replacement of sweepers.

Mr. Tate indicated that MAG will need to address the sweeper question in the future.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Ms. Deeb requested that MAG provide a briefing on the FAST Act when more information becomes available.

Mr. Warren White noted that the City of Chandler is updating its manuals with regard to National Highway System (NHS) facilities and asked if other agencies had examples. Ms. Deeb indicated that the City of Mesa had developed a draft summary of how to address NHS facilities and would provide the City of Chandler with the summary after the meeting.

11. Member Agency Update

The Chair indicated that the City of El Mirage had recently opened a new construction bid.

Mr. David Janover indicated that the City of Avondale had hired a new traffic engineer.

Ms. Jennifer Jack indicated that the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community would be begin construction of its CMAQ funded paving project tomorrow.

Ms. Dana Owsiany noted that the City of Surprise is beginning utility work on its Bell Road at Grand Avenue project. The project will result in major street closings.

Mr. Robert Woodring indicated that Maricopa County was looking to hire planners.

Mr. Oliver noted that the Gila River Indian Community had initiated a new transit service.

Ms. Grote noted that the City of Phoenix had recently reclassified a number of positions to allow planners to fill those positions. She also noted that the Roads and Streets Conference would be held at the end of March.

Tom Deitering indicated that the FHWA had issued new material on Buy America requirements.

12. Next Meeting Date

The Chair stated that the next meeting of the Committee would be held Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the MAG Offices, Ironwood Room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM.